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Title: Announcement regarding business of the House .

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make an important announcement.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested me that in order to enable more Members to participate in the ongoing further General Discussion on the Budget (General 2008-09 and to dispose of all the questions necessary in connection with the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-09 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08, the discussion may be taken up immediately after the Question Hour, the lunch hour may be dispensed with and the Private Members' Business fixed for today may be transferred to the next part of the Session.

If the House agrees, there will be no lunch break today. The Private Members' Business (Resolutions) fixed for today may be transferred to 17th April, 2008 thereby protecting the rights of the Members in whose names Private Members' Resolutions are listed in today's Revised List of Business.

Are you agreeable to this proposal?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, you have said that there is no Private Members' Business today. We would like to know at what time the Finance Minister will reply to the discussion on the General Budget ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You want to know the time of the reply of the hon. Finance Minister. We shall find it out. Let us see.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Let him give the reply at five o' clock. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Five o' clock is too late.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या इसे पांच-छः बजे कर लिया जाए?

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फ़िरोज़ाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, शून्य काल कराइए। ...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow some important two or three matters of urgent public importance to be raised now. P1ease cooperate because this is a very important discussion. So many hon. colleagues wish to take part in this discussion and I wish to give them the opportunity because of the importance of the discussion.

श्री मोहन सिंह (देवरिया) : महोदय, जो प्राइवेट मेंबर्स डे है, हर बार इसी को शिफ्ट किया जाता है। यह ठीक नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. We always sacrifice the Private Members' Business. It should not be done. On this matter, I will call a meeting and we will find out.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): Sir, this is the third time we are doing it. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री मोहन सिंह : पहले भी ऐसा हुआ था। ...(व्यवधान) उस दिन का भी खत्म और आज का भी खत्म। ..(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: It is only being postponed. The same Private Members' Business (Resolutions) will be there on that day.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : महोदय, मंत्री जी का जवाब कितने बजे होगा? We would like to be present at that time. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): As far as timing is concerned, there is no convenience. The debate on the General Budget can continue and the Finance Minister can reply to the debate around 4.15 p.m. or 4.30 p.m. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, that is all right.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Thereafter, the other items such as Appropriation, Vote on Accounts, etc. can be taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, four o' clock is all right.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The Finance Minister can reply at 4.15 p.m. today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. It is agreed that the hon. Finance Minister will give the reply at 4.15 p.m. today. Thank you for your cooperation.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.